

"Look here," he said; "how could I help it? There's poor Willie—his mother died last week, and if it hadn't been examination day he wouldn't have been at school. Do you think I was going to be so mean as to take a prize from a poor fellow who had just lost his mother?"

Bravo, my lad! a good speech that; and second was a good place, if not the noblest of any, in all the school that day. —*Sunday-school Advocate.*

#### A BAD HABIT.

Gum chewing is a most unpleasant spectacle for the disinterested observer. That wagging of jaws looked at persistently has been known to drive one insane, and the desire to seize the chewer and make him or her—and it's more often her—disgorge is only controlled by getting out of the way as quickly as possible. Chewing that never comes to anything—that eternal chop, chop of the jaws, bringing into play a set of muscles that eventually disfigure the face, while causing an expression of bovine idiocy to settle upon it. Where is the human being's natural vanity while that piece of "gum" is being masticated? If the victim of this gum-chewing habit will kindly look at herself in the mirror during an hour or so of the operation, it may have the effect of curing her of it. —*Boston Herald.*

#### A BOY'S HELP.

Cheerfulness has been called "the bright weather of the heart." What the sun is to the day, what joy is to the stricken soul, that the cheerful one is in the home. A writer tells of a visit, and of coming to the dining-room one morning in the midst of a three-days rain. The fire smoked, the room was chilly, father was grim, and mother tired, and Baby Polly fretful, and Bridget undeniably cross. Soon Jack came in with the breakfast rolls from the baker's. He left his rubber coat and boots in the entry, and came in rosy and smiling. "Here's the paper, sir," said he so cheerfully that his father answered quite pleasantly, "Ah, thank you, Jack." His mother looked up at him smilingly as he touched her cheek gently as he passed. "The top of the morning to you, Pollywog," he said to his little sister, and delivered the rolls to Bridget with a "Here you are. Are n't you sorry you didn't go yourself this beautiful day?" He gave the fire a poke and opened the damper. The smoke ceased and coals began to glow, and five minutes after Jack came they had gathered around the table and were eating as cheerfully as possible.

This seems simply in the telling, and Jack never knew he had done anything

at all, but he had changed the whole moral atmosphere of the room, and started a gloomy day pleasantly for five people. "He is always so," said his mother when her guest spoke to her about it afterwards, "just so sunny and kind and ready all the time."

Now is there any reason why every boy who reads this may not be just as helpful as Jack? Try it—a merry heart and a helping hand. —*Canadian Baptist.*

#### THE GREATEST TEXT IN THE BIBLE.

Love is the highest experience of the human soul. Faith and hope, it is true, are gifts from God to man, but love is the very essence of God himself. God is love. When God imparts love to us He imparts Himself. "Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

There is no simpler truth in Scripture than this of God's love to man, and yet I know of no more difficult subject to present to the world. Could I but make the world understand and believe that "God is love" I should never preach from any other text. My last days would be devoted to proclaiming that one fact in every part of the world, and I know that every day would be a veritable Pentecost. For if the world were convinced that God was love, a God of mercy, and not of judgment, our prisons would be empty, and the Kingdom of God would be established in our midst. For love begets love; and if we can make men really believe that God loves them many will love Him in return. We are apt to judge others by ourselves. If a man is covetous he thinks every one else is covetous; if he is base every one else is base. And so men would think of God as like themselves; and because they love those only who are loveable, they think of God as only loving those who are good and who are deserving of His love.—*Dwight L. Moody in July Ladies' Home Journal.*

#### HIS WORD IS TRUE.

A miserable looking man went into a grocer's shop and begged for bread. The grocer thought he knew the man, and asked him if his name was not —, who had once a good fortune and houses of his own. Yes; it was the same man. The grocer spoke kindly to him, and inquired how he had become so poor.

"Ah, sir," he replied, "I am suffering for my bad conduct to my widowed mother. I used to wish her dead that I might have her property; but when I got my desire I never prospered; the money was soon squandered and now I am reduced to want."

God has said that he will bless those children who love and obey their parents; but his curse shall be upon the disobedient. —*Morning Star.*

## The Sunday School.

### LESSON FOR JULY 25.

Paul Preaching at Athens. Acts. 17: 22-34.

Golden Text.—*God is a spirit; and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4: 34.*

#### INSTRUCTION.

Introduction.—Where did we leave Paul in the last lesson? At Berea where much blessing came upon his work. From there he goes to Athens, the capital of Attica in Greece. It was in its greatest glory about 400 B. C. It contained about 150,000 inhabitants. Here Paul met with a different kind of opposition—a pagan culture and a pagan philosophy. Endeavor to enter into the feelings of Paul when he came to Athens and found the city filled with idols. He encountered two kinds of philosophers, the epicureans and stoics. What did the Athenians think of Paul? Where did they take him? What was Mar's Hill? Why was he taken there? Instead of arresting Paul they took him to a quiet place where he might conveniently speak to them without interruption. This was an important crisis in the history of Christianity, for it was now to be preached to the most cultivated audience in the world. Note that Paul was chosen to do this, being himself a cultured man.

1. *The Unknown God.*—It is to be observed that the Athenians worshipped the same God that Paul worshipped, but they did not know him. "Whom ye ignorantly worship." Back of all the multiplicity of their gods they recognized one supreme power, the ruler of all things, a something which they did not know, and this they designated as the "Unknown God." But this God Paul came to declare unto them. Do we know God? What did Jesus say about knowing God? John 17: 3. How is God revealed to us?

2. *Paul's Speech.*—We have here a mere outline of Paul's speech. He tells the Athenians who this "Unknown God" is whom they worship. Here is the outline of the speech: 1. This God is the Creator. v. 24. 2. This God is spiritual in his essence. vs. 24, 29. 3. He has in himself life and all things. v. 25. 4. He is the Providential Ruler of the world. vs. 26-28. 5. The human race is one and came directly from God. vs. 26-28. 6. The government of God is moral; but it is he leading men to a knowledge of himself. vs. 28, 29. 7. Men, at whose sins in times past, God winked, he now commands to repent and believe on Christ, who has come and died and risen from the dead, and shall be their final Judge. vs. 30, 31. These are great truths, sublime